APPENDIX III.

THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE.

The questions requiring discussion regarding the administration of the Indian Institute of Science may briefly be considered under the following heads: —

I. Time has now arrived to revise the constitution of the Institute.

(1) The scheme under which it is at present managed is drawn up under the Charitable Endowments Act (Act VI of 1890) and is confessedly of a temporary nature. As the undertaking of a post-graduate University was, at the time the scheme was started, a novel one and was also of an experimental character, Government did not themselves consider it wise to tie the hands of the governing body by a statutory provision and therefore utilised the provisions of the Charitable Endowments Act to formulate a scheme for a Research University.

(2) The scheme was intended to deal with the management of an institution providing post-graduate University courses. The Council of the Institute now consider that this aspect of the institution should be dropped as it is more or less a failure, and that the present resources of the Institute could be more advantageously utilised in solving the technological, chemical problems specially pertaining to an industrially developing India (*vide* page 6 of the Draft Scheme).

The report of the Chemical Services Committee also supports the recommendations of the Council in this matter. It may therefore be assumed that it is necessary to re-consider the line of work in which the Institute of Science is to engage inself henceforth, and therefore that a suitable constitution should be provided to enable it to discharge its future duties satisfactorily.

II. The revision should avoid the defects of its present organisation which explain more or less the cause of its unpopularity and its failure. It should provide a constitution that will enable it to be a real source of assistance in the development of the resources of the country.

(1) The present constitution with a Patron, Vice-Patrons, a Court of Visitors, a Standing Committee of the Court, a Council and a Senate, is exceedingly cumbrous and in result ineffectual. The authority in which the executive administration of the Institute is vested is the Council. It consits of twelve members. On this body, inclusive of the Director, five members of the Institute itself are represented. The Government of India, the Government of Mysore, and the Tatas who have provided all the funds, have only four seats, and the other three seats contain the representatives of the Court of Visitors who have no real interest in the working of the Institute consisting as they do of members drawn from all parts of India. As a result, the work of the Institute really is determined by the Director and the professors.

(2) The Draft Scheme prepared by the Executive Council indicates the necessity for a much simpler constitution which is also recommended by the Chemical Services Committee. The association of the Institute with the Government who are deeply interested in the Industrial development of the country should be more intimate and the work of the Institute should be under the direct control of an officer who has business or industrial experience combined with technical and chemical knowledge.

(3) The association of professors along with representatives of the founders in a Council on an equal footing does not conduce to satisfactory work and should not be continued.

III. This revision of the constitution should be undertaken by the Government of India in consultation with the Mysore Durbar and the Tatas who are the only authorities who have contributed large grants for the founding of the Institute and are interested in its success.

IV. It is advisable that the future policy of the Institute should be distinctly defined before its constitution is framed. The Chemical Services Committee as well as the Council of the Institute have, as already stated, both recommended

that chemical research work with a view to industrial development should be the sole aim of the Institute in future. It is therefore necessary that the original plan should be modified so as to eliminate teaching work from the Institute.

V. The Executive Council of the Institute contemplate the appointment of a Director as the term of the present incumbent has expired. Opportunity should be taken of the appointment of a new Director to select a man who is fully qualified to direct the work of a research Institute contemplated by the Chemical Services Committee. In the Draft Scheme prepared by the Council it is suggested that it should be preferable if the Director is a man of wide experience and has been engaged in practical scientific work. They also add that he might "well be expected to deliver at least two set addresses every year dealing with the Economics of Industry, the Resources of the Country, and the Industrial Problems." This is exactly what the Chemical Services Committee recommend. But, however, at their last meeting, the Council have decided to appoint an European officer of great Indian administrative experience but very little business or chemical knowledge. It seems desirable that the Patron should not sanction this appointment before considering the whole scheme for the future administration of the Institute.

VI. As the Chemical Services Committee have directly left out of their consideration the Indian Institute of Science leaving it to be decided by the Council as to what course it should pursue after considering their report, the Patron, as contemplated by the present scheme, might appoint a special committee to report to him on the matter. The report may be referred to the Government of Mysore whose representations might be considered before final orders are passed.

SIMLA,
14th September 1920.

A. R. BANERJI.